

life, character and services of Dr. Kane, and that the same be published in the proceedings of the Society.

*Resolved*, That a letter expressive of condolence and sympathy for their loss, be addressed on behalf of this Society, by its officers, to the family of Dr. Kane, with a copy of these resolutions.

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*Stated Meeting, March 6.*

Present, nineteen members.

Prof. FRAZER, Vice-President, in the Chair.

Dr. E. Brown-Sequard, a recently elected member, was introduced, and took his seat.

Letters were read:—

From the Society of Antiquaries, dated London, Nov. 28, 1856, and from the Natural History Society of Newcastle upon Tyne, dated December 13, 1856, returning thanks for Nos. 53, 54, of the Proceedings of this Society: and—

From Prof. A. D. Bache, dated U. S. Coast Survey Office, Washington, February 24, 1857, announcing a donation for the Library.

The following donations were announced:—

FOR THE LIBRARY.

Documents relative to the Colonial History of the State of New York, procured in England, Holland and France. By John Romeyn Brodhead, Esq., Agent. Edited by E. B. O'Callaghan, M. D., &c. Vol. I. Albany, 1856. 4to.

Catalogue of the New York State Library, 1855. 2 Vols. Albany. 8vo.—*From the Trustees of the N. Y. State Library.*

Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society. Vol. XVII. No. 3. January, 1857. London. 8vo.—*From the Society.*

Proceedings on laying the corner stone of the Library Edifice for the Free Public Library of the City of New Bedford, Aug. 28, 1856. New Bedford. 8vo. *From the Trustees.*

Journal of the Franklin Institute. Third Series. Vol. XXXIII. No. 2. Feb. 1857. Philadelphia. 8vo.—*From the Institute.*

- Report on the Commercial Relations of the United States with all Foreign Nations. Edmund Flagg, Superintendent. Prepared under the direction of the Secretary of State. Vol. I. Washington, 1856. 4to.—*From the Hon. J. R. Tyson.*
- Official Army Register of the United States, for 1857. Published by order of the Secretary of War. Washington, 1857. 8vo.—*From S. Cooper, Adjutant General.*
- Anniversary Address before the American Institute of the City of New York, Oct. 28, 1856. By Prof. A. D. Bache, Supt. U. S. Coast Survey. New York. 8vo.
- Inauguration of the Dudley Observatory at Albany, Aug. 28, 1856. 8vo.
- U. S. Coast Survey Maps: York River Harbour, Maine. Newburyport Harbour, Mass. Gloucester Harbour, Mass. Salem Harbour, Mass. Charleston Harbour, S. Carolina. Mobile Bay, Alabama. Key West Harbour, Florida. Galveston Entrance, Texas. Reconnaissance of the Western Coast of the U. S. from San Francisco to Umpquah River, California and Oregon. Reconnaissance from Umpquah River to the boundary, Oregon and Washington Territory. Lines of equal Magnetic Declination for the year 1850. Lines of Equal Magnetic Dip and Horizontal Intensity for the year 1850.—*From Prof. A. D. Bache, Supt. of the U. S. Coast Survey.*
- The American Journal of Science and Arts. Second Series. Vol. XXIII. No. 68. March, 1857. New Haven. 8vo.—*From the Editors.*
- Report of the Pennsylvania Hospital for the Insane, for the year 1856. By Thomas S. Kirkbride, M. D., Physician to the Institution.—*From the Author.*
- Twenty-second Annual Report of the Trustees of the Philadelphia Gas Works, to the Select and Common Councils of the City of Philadelphia, January 1857. 8vo.
- Report of the Board of Managers to the Stockholders of the Mine Hill and Schuylkill Haven Rail Road Company, at their Annual Meeting, January 12, 1857. Philadelphia. 8vo.—*From Prof. J. C. Cresson.*
- Twenty-ninth Annual Report of the Board of Managers of the House of Refuge. Philadelphia, 1857. 8vo.—*From James J. Barclay, Esq.*
- The Medical News and Library. Vol. XV. No. 171. March, 1857. Philadelphia. 8vo.—*From Blanchard & Lea.*

Biographical Memoir of the late François André Michaux. By Elias Durand. (Trans. Am. Phil. Soc. Vol XI.) Philadelphia, 1857. 4to.—*From the Author.*

The Committee to which was referred a paper by Dr. Adamson, entitled "Notes on certain methods of measuring minute intervals of time," made a report favourable to the publication of the paper in the Transactions of the Society, which was ordered, and the committee discharged.

Dr. William Harris referred to the decease of Dr. E. K. Kane, at Havana, on the 16th ultimo, in the 38th year of his age; and spoke of his early devotion to scientific pursuits, his assiduity as a student, his energy as an adventurer, and his excellence as a man and a Christian.

On motion of Dr. Harris, the Rev. Dr. Boardman was appointed to prepare an obituary notice of Dr. Kane.

Dr. E. Brown-Sequard exhibited crystals from blood taken from the veins of dogs after the extirpation of the supra-renal capsules, and mentioned the results of several experiments upon animals in relation to the extirpation of these glands, upon the duration of life after the operation, and other phenomena connected with the functions of those capsules.

Dr. Dunglison expressed his gratification at the statements of Dr. Brown-Sequard. The functions of the supra-renal capsules had recently received great attention, and it had been found by Dr. Addison that their disorganization was accompanied by a fatal wasting and bronzed appearance of the skin, a diseased condition, to which the name "Addison's disease"—*Maladie d'Addison*—had been given.

After further remarks upon the subject, Dr. D. expressed his hope that the attention of Dr. Brown-Sequard might be turned to other ductless glands—the *thymus* and the *thyroid*, for example—to determine whether they also do not possess more intimate relations with the great vital functions than are at present admitted.

Mr. Peale solicited the attention of the members to a new form of *valves* which he submitted for their inspection.

He remarked that he used the word *new*, but in doing so desired to explain that they were imitations, as near as the means permitted,

of the valves of the arteries, veins, and some other portions of the human structure; they were therefore, in principle, as *old* as the creation of man.

These valves, he observed, are applicable generally, to all the purposes of ordinary valves, but particularly so to flexible tubes; in which application they are now presented in syringes of an economical form.

Mr. Peale then desired permission to state the advantages which he believed these valves possessed, and for which letters patent of the United States had been granted to him, the drawings with which exhibited their structure fully, and were now presented for inspection.

1. Their extreme simplicity of form, and economy of construction.
2. Their non-liability to injury, as they may fall, be bent, or even beaten or trodden upon, without derangement.
3. Their indestructibility, except by agents that would destroy the whole fabric or instrument.
4. Their operation in any position, vertical, horizontal, or upside down.

Mr. Peale then showed the practical operation of valves constructed according to this mode, as applicable to various purposes.

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*Stated Meeting, March 20.*

Present, seventeen members.

Prof. CRESSON, Vice-President, in the Chair.

Letters were read:—

From the Natural History Society at Emden, dated Oct. 2, 1856, on transmitting a donation to the Library:—

From the Linnean Society, dated Soho Square, London, Nov. 25, 1856, returning thanks for Nos. 53, 54, of the Proceedings of this Society:—

From the Massachusetts Historical Society, dated Boston, Feb. 19, 1857; and from the Smithsonian Institution, dated Washington, March 6, 1857, acknowledging the receipt of No. 56 of the Proceedings: and—

From Mr. E. Godfrey Rehrer, dated Harrisburg, March 2,